

**Part XIII.**

**REPORTING OF HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS**

**12 VAC 5-90-370. REPORTING OF HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS**

**A. Definitions.**

The following words and terms when used in this part shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection” means a primary bloodstream infection identified by laboratory tests, with or without clinical signs or symptoms, in a patient with central line infusion device, and meeting the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveillance definition for laboratory-confirmed primary bloodstream infection.

“Central line device” means a vascular infusion device that terminates at or close to the heart or in one of the greater vessels. In the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), the following are considered great vessels for the purpose of reporting central line infections and counting central line days: aorta, pulmonary artery, superior vena cava, inferior vena cava, brachiocephalic veins, internal jugular veins, subclavian veins, external iliac veins, and common femoral veins.

“Healthcare-associated infection” (or nosocomial infection) means a localized or systemic condition resulting from an adverse reaction to the presence of an infectious agent(s) or its toxin(s) that 1) occurs in a patient in a healthcare setting (eg., a hospital or outpatient clinic), 2) was not found to be present or incubating at the time of admission unless the infection was related to a previous admission to the same setting, and 3) if the setting is a hospital, meets the criteria for a specific infection site as defined by CDC.

“National Healthcare Safety Network” (NHSN) means a surveillance system created by the CDC for accumulating, exchanging and integrating relevant information on infectious adverse events associated with healthcare delivery.

**B. Authority.**

§ 32.1-35.1 of the Code of Virginia requires acute care hospitals to report information about nosocomial infections to the NHSN and to release infection data to the department, with specifics of such reporting to be defined by regulation.

**C. Reportable Infections and Method and Timing of Reporting**

- 1) Acute care hospitals shall collect data on the following healthcare-associated infection in the specified patient population: central line-associated bloodstream infections in adult (age > 18 years) intensive care units, including the number of central-line days in each population at risk, expressed per 1,000.
- 2) All acute care hospitals with adult intensive care units shall a) participate in CDC's National Healthcare and Safety Network by July 1, 2008 and b) submit data on the above named infection to the NHSN according to CDC protocols and ensure that all data for each year are entered into the NHSN by January 31 of the following calendar year.
- 3) All acute care hospitals reporting the information noted above shall authorize the department to have access to hospital-specific data contained in the NHSN database.

**D. Liability Protection and Data Release**

Any person making such report as authorized herein shall be immune from liability as provided by § 32.1-38 of the *Code of Virginia*. Infection rate data may be released to the public by the department, upon request.